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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS925 Cara Place
San Pedro, Calif. 90731
Feb. 11, 2003

Attention: Port Security

Dear Sir,

2003 FEB 14 A 11:07

USCG-2002-14069-39

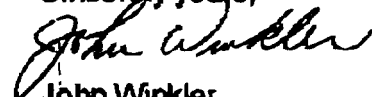
I am a crane driver in the Port of Los Angeles, and a member of local 13 ILWU. I would like to give you some feedback in regard to port security as the way I see it.

There are more than 6 million cargo containers that arrive annually in our ports and the numbers keep growing each year. What is disturbing is that less than 2 percent are X-rayed or physically inspected. As we know, terrorists can easily bring in a dirty bomb or use high explosives to carry out their mission of mass destruction.

My suggestion to the Coast Guard is that the shipping companies need to invest in new technology in order to safeguard our ports, and communities. It is possible to have 100 percent inspected containers without disrupting the flow of commerce. The solution is to install detectors in the crane beam in order to detect any explosive or nuclear weapons. The way it would work is that as soon as the beam comes down on the container you have a yellow landing light. The detector would work in conjunction with the landing light, as it would sound an alarm if any trouble was detected and would let security know that there is a problem with a particular container. These sophisticated new detectors can spot nukes and explosives through truck and container walls and recognize the difference between radiation from weapons and other types of radiation sources.

If or when a container is found to be suspicious, then the container would be moved to a security area or loaded on a barge to be handled by the Coast Guard. I feel that it is time that we upgrade to the same level as the airports before it is too late!

Sincerely yours, ~



John Winkler

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